

**Remarks of Mayor Paul D. Fraim  
Dedication of Rosenfield Plaque  
Thursday, April 4, 2013  
Harbor Park**

On behalf of the City Council and all those joining us today, let me say how wonderful it is to be here for another opening day at Harbor Park! I don't think there's any better setting anywhere in the country for enjoying America's pastime than here on the banks of the Elizabeth River in downtown Norfolk.

We're here today to recognize someone who's given a lifetime to baseball. He is, in fact, one of baseball's living legends – and that it is, of course, the King of Baseball, Dave Rosenfield.

In October 2011, Dave announced his decision to step away from the day-to-day operations of being general manager of the Tides. But anyone who thought Dave was walking away from baseball would have thought wrong. As he said at the time: "If I walked away completely, I'd still be here for the games." Dave went from being the Tides general manager to the club's vice president and senior advisor to Tides President Ken Young.

While Dave has spent nearly his entire life in baseball, his career in the sport dates to 1956 when he was hired at the tender age of 26 to be the general manager of a team named the Bakersfield Boosters. To help with some perspective, in 1956 Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States, Elvis Presley had just released his first album and a gallon of gas was 22 cents. Dave was the team's only full-time employee, so naturally he wore many hats. He sold tickets, kept the books, coached third base, acquired players, caught batting practice and in a pinch, put himself in the lineup as a player.

Six years later – in 1962 – Dave was hired by the Tides. He was named general manager the next year and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. More than 50 years later Dave's still with the Tides and he's still vice president of the International League – a position he's held for 37 consecutive years.

Dave has had a lot of firsts in his career, and one of them is that he may very well be the only general manager to have helped building two ball parks – Met Park and Harbor Park.

As some will remember, in 1962 the Tides were playing in Portsmouth. In 1970, the team moved to Norfolk where they played for the next 22 years at Met Park out by the

airport. In 1992, Dave and the Tides moved here to Harbor Park where they've been ever since.

Dave is so closely identified with the Tides that many aren't aware of his involvement in other areas of the local pro sports scene. Back in the 1960's Norfolk had a Continental League pro football team – the Norfolk Neptunes – and Dave was its general manager. He was the interim general manager for Norfolk's American Basketball Association team, the Virginia Squires. And he also served as general manager of the Tidewater Sharks hockey club.

As busy as Dave has been with the Tides and the International League, he always found time for community services. Dave has been and continues to be a tireless advocate for the growth of baseball in the region. He's spoken before many groups on numerous occasions. He implemented the Youth Baseball fund to help youth teams attend tournaments, and he co-founded and coordinated Old Dominion University baseball scholarships and helped persuade ODU to build its baseball complex and seek Division I status.

During his extraordinary career, Dave earned many of professional baseball's top honors. He's been named four times as International League Baseball Executive of the Year, he's a recipient of the John H. Johnson President's Trophy – which is the National Association of Professional Baseball League's top honor - and in 2004 he was named Minor League's "King of Baseball." In 2008, Dave was inducted into both the International League Hall of Fame and the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his numerous and important accomplishments and contributions.

Dave has given a lifetime to baseball, he's given more than 50 years to the Tides and he's demonstrated his commitment to helping make Norfolk not just a great baseball town, but also to helping make it a better place to live and play. For those reasons and more, the Norfolk City Council was unanimous in its decision to commemorate his long and outstanding career by designating the portion of Park Avenue that runs past Harbor Park as Rosie's Way, and to commission a likeness of him for installation at Harbor Park. We are here today to unveil and dedicate that piece of public art. So thank you, Dave, for all you have done - and to borrow a line from Yogi Berra, another baseball great: "Thanks for making this day necessary."